Development of Roads to Cater Increasing Freight/Passenger Traffic

*9. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that: (i) The volume of road transport is growing at an average rate of 10%; (ii) The share of road freight traffic is increasing from 11% in 1951 to 65% by the end of the century, and; (iii) Passenger traffic on roads has increased from 25% to 80% and expected to increase substantially in the future;

(b) what are Government plans on road development to cater for this growth; and

(c) whether the investment required is commensurate with the budgetary allotments?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major thrust for the development of National Highways during the 9th Five Year Plan will be on four laning of the four corridors linking Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai and the roads leading to major ports. Action for carrying out feasibility studies are already on. Financially viable and bankable sections are proposed to be taken up under BOT scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

Pilferage of Titanium Alloy from Mumbai

*10. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had instituted an enquiry some time back into the case of pilferage of 1,000 kg. of Titanium alloy from Mumbai; if so, what is the status/outcome of the enquiry so conducted;

(b) what is the background of the case;

(c) whether the Delhi High Court has dismissed a petition recently in the matter as according to Hon'ble Court there was no need for interference from the court as an enquiry was already being done by the Defence Ministry; and

(d) whether his Ministry proposes to approach CBI or any other agency to help out in the investigation into the case, if so, the response thereto and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. C.B.I. enquiry was ordered by the Government on 5.9.97, which is in progress.

(b) The consignment of 1,000 Kg. of the master alloy, packed in five containers, was stored in the godown of MIDHANI's clearing agent at Bombay. On post-delivery inspection in March, 1997, the alloy metal in the containers were discovered to have been mostly substituted by construction bricks.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As explained at (a) above, C.B.I. Enquiry has been ordered and is in progress.

Levy on Motor Spirit

*11. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on March 30, 1976, the Lok Sabha adopted a resolution laying down that an amount, "Not less than 3.5 paise per litre out of the duty of customs and of excise levied on motor spirit, shall be applied for the purposes of road development";

(b) whether this resolve of the Lok Sabha has been honoured in letter and spirit and, if so, to what extent; and

(c) whether Government would consider replacing "35 Paise" in that resolution by an appropriate percentage of customs and excise revenue on motor spirit?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Sir, the Lok Sabha adopted the resolution on 18.6.1977.

(b) Yes, Sir. Funds are allocated to the States annually.

(c) Both the Houses of Parliament passed the revised resolution, in May, 1988, to earmark 5% of the basic price of petrol and diesel out of the duties of customs & excise levied on the same.

Capital Restructuring Plan of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

*12. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what financial assistance has so far been given to Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. under the capital restructuring plan as reported in the Economic Times of 23rd December, 1996;

(b) in what manner Government propose to revamp or have revamped the capital of this shipyard;

(c) what are Government's future plans so that its joint venture with the Norwegian Ship Building gets a fresh lease; and

(d) what is the health of different major shipyards in the country and what is the yard stick to measure their health?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) In order to revamp Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL), Visakhapatnam, the Government has restructured the capital base of the company by writing off Government loans and interest thereon to the tune of Rs. 470.93 crores and by converting Government loans into equity to the tune of Rs. 120.20 crores. Besides, Government has extended guarantee to State Bank of India's outstanding loan amounting to Rs. 173.23 crores. Further, the Government has re-introduced Shipbuilding Subsidy Scheme for a period of 5 years which, inter alia, provides for payment of 30% subsidy by the Government to Indian shipyards both for domestic as well as export orders.

The process of formation of Joint Ventures with foreign yards including the Norwegian offer would get facilitated by these developments.

(d) Barring Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd., Rajabagan Dockyard of CIWTC, which are sick units, other major Public Sector shipyards viz. Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Goa Shipyard Ltd., Mazagon Dock Ltd. and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers have been earning operating profits.

A unit becomes sick if its accumulated losses are more than its net worth.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों को चौड़ा करने के लिए विश्व बैंक से सहायता

*13. **प्रो० रामबक्ष सिंह वर्मा:** क्या जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार देश में राजमार्गों को चौड़ा करने और उनमें सुधार लाने के लिए विश्व बैंक से सहायता लेने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) राजमार्गों की स्थिति में सुधार के लिए विगत में विश्व बैंक से कब सहायता प्राप्त की गई थी?

जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी०जी० वेंकटरामन): (क) जी हां।

(ख) भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण ने दिल्ली से कलकत्ता और चेन्नई से मदुरै मार्ग के लिए साध्यता अध्ययन शुरू किया है। उसके बाद इन परियोजनाओं को ऋण सहायता के लिए विश्व बैंक के समक्ष रखा जाएगा।